

# AACR 3

Office of the President  
May 8, 2012

Members, Board of Trustees:

## ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in STEM Education and an approved content area (e.g. Mathematics, Physics) degree (CIP Code: 13.1399, PROG: ED BSEDU STEM) in the College of Education, effective in the Fall 2012 Semester.

Background: In Spring 2011, the STEM Education faculty submitted an innovative undergraduate secondary certification program called STEM PLUS – Preparing Leaders for rUral/Urban Schools. STEM PLUS program participants will earn a Bachelor of Science in Education degree with a double major in STEM Education and their content major with secondary teaching certification in one or more state-certifiable STEM subjects. This degree program and major will allow for greater flexibility and multiple pathways toward becoming a STEM teacher.

The lack of highly qualified mathematics and science teachers in middle and high school classrooms in the United States is a crisis that is well established. For example, unqualified teachers teach about 56% of high school students taking physical science and 27% taking mathematics. At the state level, the Kentucky Department of Education annually compiles a list of certification shortages areas. Mathematics and science certification areas have been on the list since its inception in the 1990's.

The proposed STEM PLUS undergraduate degree and the STEM Education major option will help to address state and national STEM teacher shortages.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate and has completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The provost of the University supports this recommendation.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_